Adverse Effect of Power shortage on Protected Water Supply Schemes in Rural areas

678. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem being faced in rural areas of the country due to power shortage, affecting the operation of Protected Water Supply Schemes;

(b) whether it is a fact that RGNDWM is also facing the nagative impact of power shortage; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ease and solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) There is a general power shortage in the country and Rural Water Supply, alongwith other activities using power, is affected.

(c) The State Government are taking appropriate steps to reduce the gravity of the problem due to power shortage; and the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is supporting their efforts in this regard.

Potable Water in Maharashtra

679. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the current requirement of potable water in Maharashtra, urban areas vis-a-vis rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the requirement is being met in the urban and rural areas of the State, separately; and

(d) the measure Government propose to initiate to meet the full requirement of potable water of the State within a timeframe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Drinking water in Saurashtra region

680. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Acute drinking water shortage in Saurashtra District" which appeared in the Times of India on the 25th December, 1996;

(b) if so, whether Government have approached the State Government to have the first hand information in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Government to overcome the long term problem of the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The details are awaited from the State Government. On receipt of the details, further action on the same will be taken.

Power and functions entrusted to Zilla Parishads and Gram Panchayats

681. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the State Governments have entrusted the powers and functions to their respective Zilla Parishads and Gram Panchayats under the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, State-wise;

(b) to what extent the State Governments can restrict the functions and powers entrusted to Panchayats under the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act to the areas mentioned in the sixth Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 provides that the Legislature of a State may, be law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level. Panchayati Raj is a State subject. The State Governments have already passed necessary legislation in this regard in consonance with the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 and are entrusting powers and functions to the Panchayats, However, this is a continuous process.

(c) At present there is no proposal to extend the provisions of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 to the Sixth Schedule Areas in the country.

Revision of Norms and Financial Assistance for Old Age Pension

682. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2864 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 1996 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any final decision regarding proposal to revise the norms and financial assistance for old age pension under the National Social Assurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details of the revisions made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, sir. The final decision has not yet been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

Financing Solar Pumps for Protected Water Supply Schemes

683. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is provided for the use of solar pumps for protected water Supply schemes all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of the funding pattern;

(c) whether any solar powered Protected Water Supply Schemes have been financed in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Financial assistance is considered on the basis of specific proposals from the States and where conventional source of energy is not available.

(b) 100% of the approved cost has been provided as Central assistance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 44 Solar Photo Voltaic Systems have been installed in Andhra Pradesh.

Drinking Water to the Residents of Bara Village in Pauri Garhwal District

684. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by the Garhwal Jal Sansthan, Pauri, District Pauri Garhwal, to meet the demand for